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Message Text

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71
ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-13 EB-11 COME-00 DRC-01 /161 W
---------- 075994
R 122137Z SEP 73
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9386
INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO UNN

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, CO RO

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU OF ROMANIA VISITS BOGOTA
REF: BOGOTA 6867, BUCHAREST 3102

1. PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU ARRIVED SEPTEMBER 10 TO BEGIN HIS THREE DAY VISIT TO COLOMBIA. PRESIDENT PASTRANA AND NUMEROUS LOCAL DIGNITARIES, INCLUDING THE CARDINAL OF BOGOTA, THE PAPAL NUNCIO, THE FOREIGN MINIS-
TER, THE DEFENSE MINISTER AND HIGH RANKING MILITARY OFFICERS PARTICIPA-

TED IN THE COLORFUL WELCOMING CEREMONY AT THE AIRPORT. SECURITY ARRANGE-

MENTS WERE NOTABLY AMPLE AND STRIGENT. THE PUBLIC, HOWEVER, EVINCED LITTLE INTEREST IN THE VISIT. ABOUT THE ONLY PEOPLE ASIDE FROM THE OFFI-
CIAL PARTY TO SHOW UP AT THE AIRPORT WERE A GROUP OF LOCAL COMMUNISTS
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(SEE PARAGRAPH 6) WHO WERE KEPT WELL AWAY FROM THE ARRIVAL AREA.

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2. PRESIDENT PASTRANA, IN HIS WELCOMING SPEECH WAS CLEARLY HARD-
PRESSED TO FIND A RATIONALE FOR THE VISIT, ALLUDING TO COMMON ROMAN-
IAN--COLOMBIAN CULTURE AND TRADITIONS DATING BACK TO THE
REMOTE ORIGINS OF THE TWO NATIONS. HE ALSO POINTED OUT THE DIFFER-
ENT PATHS THE TWO STATES HAVE TAKEN IN REGARD TO STATE POWER, NO-
TING THAT THE TWO DIFFERENT PATHS HAVE THE SAME ULTIMATE AIMS OF
JUSTICE, WELFARE OF THE PEOPLE ETC. HE ALSO CITED THE PROSPECTS FOR
MUTUAL ADVANTAGES FROM FUTURE ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION.

3. PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU IN REPLY POINTED TO THE ADVANTAGES OF MULTILAT
ERAL
COOPERATION WITH ALL NATIONS, REGARDLESS OF SOCIAL SYSTEMS, FOUNDED
ON THE PRINCIPLES OF EQUALITY, RESPECT FOR INDEPENDENCE AND
SOVEREIGNTY,
NON INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MUTUAL ADVANTAGE.

4. THE FIRST DAY OF THE VISIT WAS LARGELY PROTOCOLARY, INCLUDING
WREATH LAYING, A VISIT TO BOGOTAS FAMED GOLD MUSEUM, A VISIT
TO THE CONGRESS AND A DINNER GIVEN IN PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU'S HONOR BY
PRESIDENT PASTRANA. (THE ONLY FOREIGN GUESTS AT THE DINNER, ASIDE
FROM THE ROMANIANS WERE THOSE FROM EASTERN EUROPEAN SOCIALIST STATES,
CHILE AND, ODDLY, ECUADOR). THE FOLLOWING EVENING (SEPTEMBER 11) THE
RECEPTION GUEST LIST FOR THE ROMANIAN PRESIDENT WAS EXPANDED TO INCLUDE
THE ENTIRE DIPLOMATIC CORPS. THE ONLY NOTABLE ABSENCE WAS THAT OF THE
AMBASSADOR OF CHILE. NEWS FROM THAT COUNTRY UNDERSTANDABLY CAST A
PALL OVER THE EVENINGS PROCEEDINGS.

5. THE CLOSEST ITEM TO A SUBSTANTIVE AGREEMENT TO DATE IS A DOCU-
MENT SIGNED BY THE COLOMBIAN AND ROMANIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, ADVOCA
-
TING FACILITATION OF TRADE AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION. (SINCE
COLOMBIA IS FACED, IN THE NEXT SEVERAL YEARS WITH A NEED TO
EXPAND OIL EXPLORATION AND DRILLING, THEIR ROMANIAN VISITORS MAY
PERCEIVE A POSSIBLE EQUIPMENT/TECHNOLOGY MARKET IN THIS AREA).

6. PRESS COVERAGE HAS BEEN RELATIVELY LOW KEY, STRAIGHT FORWARD,
AND FOR THE MOST PART, CORDIAL. EL ESPECTADOR (LIBERAL PARTY) WAS
THE ONLY PAPER TO INCLUDE A FEW COOL REMARKS. THAT PAPER TOOK NOTE
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OF A MINOR FRACAS INVOLVING ABOUT 100 LOCAL COMMUNISTS WHO SCUFFLED
WITH GUARDS IN AN EFFORT TO GAIN A BETTER VIEW OF THE CEREMONY, AND
ALSO NOTED AS SIGNIFICANT THE ABSENCE OF A U.S. EMBASSY REPRE-
SENTATIVE AT THE AIRPORT. (WE WERE NOT INVITED). THE REMAINING
PRESS COVERAGE, AS NOTED, WAS LARGELY FACTUAL AND FRIENDLY IN TONE.
WHITE

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